Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on p. 86, line 17, with the following amended paragraph:

Preferably for the seventh zoom optical system, at least one positive lens in the second group should satisfy the following condition[[.]]:

$$0.1 < HH2/\Phi 2 < 15 \qquad (3G)$$

Here, HH2 is the principal point spacing (mm) of the positive lens in the second lens group, and ~~$\Phi 4$~~ $\underline{\Phi 2}$ is the refracting power of the positive lens in the second lens group.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on p. 124, line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

The lens group G2 has generally negative power, and is composed of, in order from its object side, ~~a double-convex positive lens~~ a double-concave negative lens and a positive meniscus lens concave on its image side. One aspheric surface is applied to the object-side surface of the double-concave negative lens.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on p. 124, line 13, with the following amended paragraph:

The fourth lens group G4 has positive power, and consists of a positive meniscus lens concave on its image side. One aspheric surface is applied to the object-side surface of the positive meniscus lens.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on p. 162, line 23, with the following amended paragraph:

An object image formed by the taking optical system 41 is formed on the image pickup plane of a CCD 49 via a plane-parallel plate [[P1]] and a cover glass [[P2]]. The plane-parallel plate [[P1]] is provided with an ultraviolet cut coating. The plane-parallel plate [[P1]] could also have a low-pass filter function. The object image received at CCD 49 is shown as an electronic image on the liquid crystal monitor 47 via processing means 51, which monitor is mounted on the back of the camera. This processing means 51 could be connected with recording means 52 to record therein taken electronic images.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on p. 166, line 2, with the following amended paragraph:

An object image received at the image pickup device chip 162 is entered via a terminal [[66]] 166 in the processing means of the personal computer 300, and shown as an electronic image on the monitor 302. As an example, an image 305 taken of the operator is shown in Fig. 60. This image 305 could be transmitted to and shown on a personal computer on the other end via suitable processing means and the Internet or telephone line.